

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05179 101845Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 H-02

ACDA-10 SAJ-01 /079 W

----- 120390

R 101816Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4141

AC

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 5179

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MASS, PINT, BE

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS PRESENTS DECLARATION ON SELECTION OF F-16
TO PARLIAMENT

: BRUSSELS 5143

SUMMARY. TINDEMANS PRESENTED DECLARATION ON SELECTION OF F-16
TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT JUNE 10. HOUSE DEBATE WILL BE HELD
JUNE 11 AND VOTE SET IN HOUSE ON JUNE 12 1500 L. SENATE DEBATE
WILL FOLLOW HOUSE VOTE. APPEARS GOVERNMENT HAS SAFE MAJORITY
IN HOUSE AT THIS TIME.

1. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS MADE GOVERNMENT DECLARATION IN BOTH
HOUSE AND SENATE JUNE 10. HE WAS CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED
BY SOCIALIST OPPOSITION AND PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS FOLLOWING PRESEN-
TATION COMSUMED ALMOST TWO HOURS. IN HIS DECLARATION TINDEMANS
OUTLINED EFFORTS BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAD MADE TO FIND EUROPEAN SOLUT-
ION TO F-104 REPLACEMENT AND WHY THESE HAD FAILED.

2. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION SOCIALIST OPPOSITION PARTY MOVED THAT
DEBATE BE POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 11 TO PROVIDE TIME TO STUDY
MINDEFENSE PRESS DECLARATION MUCH OF WHICH PUBLISHED IN CONSERV-
ATIVE DAILY LA LIBRE BELGIQUE JUNE 11. TINDEMANS IN TURN PROPOSED
THAT VOTE ON MOTION APPROVING GOVERNMENT POLICY BE HELD JUNE 12
AT 1500 L. THIS MET WITH CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION FROM SOCIALISTS
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05179 101845Z

AND FLEMISH NATIONALISTS VOLKSUNIE WHO WANTED VOTE TO COME

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DEBATE. AFTER LENGHTY DISCUSSION OF THIS
ISSUE PROCEDURAL VOTE SHOWED GOVERNMENT HAD SUPPORT OF ALL
COALITION PARTIES AS WELL AS FRANCOPHONE DEMOCRATIC FRONT AND
BRUSSELS LIBERAL PARTY. IF THESE GROUPS VOTE WITH GOVERNMENT
ON JUNE 12, IT WILL HAVE COMFORTABLE MAJORITY OVER OPPOSITION
OF SOCIALISTS AND VOLKSUNIE. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE05179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750202-0616
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750662/aaaaceqh.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TINDEMANS PRESENTS DECLARATION ON SELECTION OF F-16 TO PARLIAMENT
TAGS: MASS, PINT, BE, (TINDEMANS, LEO)
To: STATE AC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006